

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing configuration information, comprising:  
identifying one or more configuration elements from one or more  
5 configuration commands;  
associating the configuration elements with design elements of an electronic  
circuit design;  
retrieving each configuration element for at least one design element.
2. The method of claim 1, the step of associating comprising generating  
10 one or more data structures containing configuration elements and then storing the  
data structures with their associated design elements in a hierarchical model of the  
electronic circuit design.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising traversing the hierarchical  
model and, for each design element, storing, in a database, each configuration element  
15 associated with the design element.
4. The method of claim 3, the step of retrieving comprising specifying a  
design element to retrieve associated configuration elements.
5. The method of claim 1, the step of associating comprising storing the  
identified configuration elements and associated design elements on a design element  
20 by design element basis in a database.
6. The method of claim 1, the design element comprising an HLSN.
7. A system for processing configuration information, comprising:  
means for identifying at least one configuration element from at least one  
configuration command;  
25 means for associating the configuration element with one or more design  
elements of an electronic circuit design; and

means for retrieving each configuration element associated with at least one design element.

8. The system of claim 7, the means for associating comprising means for generating one or more data structures containing configuration elements, and means  
5 for storing the data structures with their associated design elements in a hierarchical model of the electronic circuit design.

9. The system of claim 8, further comprising means for traversing the hierarchical model and, for each design element, means for storing, in a database, each configuration element associated with the design element.

10 10. The system of claim 9, the means for retrieving comprising means for specifying a design element to retrieve associated configuration elements.

11. The system of claim 7, the means for associating comprising means for storing the identified configuration elements and associated design elements on a design element by design element basis in a database.

15 12. The system of claim 7, the design element comprising an HLSN.

13. A software product comprising instructions, stored on computer-readable media, wherein the instructions, when executed by a computer, perform steps for processing configuration information, comprising:  
instructions for identifying one or more configuration elements from one or  
20 more configuration commands;  
instructions for associating the configuration elements with design elements of an electronic circuit design; and  
instructions for retrieving each configuration element for at least one design element.

25 14. The software product of claim 13, the instructions for associating comprising instructions for generating one or more data structures containing configuration elements and then instructions for storing the data structures with their associated design elements in a hierarchical model of the electronic circuit design.

15. The software product of claim 14, further comprising instructions for traversing the hierarchical model and, for each design element, instructions for storing, in a database, each configuration element associated with the design element.

5 16. The software product of claim 15, the instructions for retrieving comprising instructions for specifying a design element to retrieve associated configuration elements.

17. The software product of claim 13, the instructions for associating comprising instructions for storing the identified configuration elements and associated design elements on a design element by design element basis in a database.

10 18. The software product of claim 13, the design element comprising an HLSN.